

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 9 remain in this application. Claims 1, 4, and 6 - 9 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments noted is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the disclosure was objected to because of certain informalities. Appropriate correction was required. In view of the objections to the specification, applicant has extensively amended the specification to correct the informalities noted in the Office Action.

Claims 1 - 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to specifically point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, no antecedent basis was found for "the knife frame" in claim 1 and "the counter-knife series" in claim 6, "it" in claims 4 and 6 were found to render the claims indefinite, the term counter-knife series is claims 6 - 9 was found to lack clear antecedent basis, and the scope of claims 6 - 9 was found to be unclear.

With respect to claim 1, the first appearance of "the knife frame" has been amended to read --a knife frame--.

With respect to claim 4, "it" has been amended to read --the locking piece-- to clarify the meaning of the claim. The term "it" was intended to refer to the locking piece. Claim 4 was also amended to delete reference numeral 18 from the claim.

With respect to claim 6, "it" has been amended to read --the cutting bevel edge--. The term "it" was intended to refer to the cutting bevel edge. Further, applicant has amended claim 6 to be an independent claim including all of the limitations of the base claim (in this case claim 1). Claim 6 is directed to a counter-knife series. Applicant submits that the scope of claim 6 is clear, and likewise, the scope of claims 7 - 9, which depend from claim 6, is also clear. Also, applicant submits that there is antecedent basis for "the counter-knife series" in claim 6, as "a counter-knife series" is referred to in the

preamble of the claim. Applicant has also amended claim 6 to improve the syntax of the claim.

For these reasons, applicant submits that the claims as amended are definite and respectfully requests that the Section 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1 - 9 be withdrawn.

Claims 1 - 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carpenter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,271,442, hereinafter "Carpenter"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Carpenter discloses a counter knife (68), a symmetrical reversible knife (62), a clamp (110), and a locking piece (90). Carpenter, however, does not teach or suggest that the counter knife has two counter-surfaces arranged to rest on the knife frame, which are arranged to form an acute angle α , the size of which is 25 - 75°, for fitting the counter knife to the knife frame using shape-locking, as in present claim 1. Further, Carpenter does not teach or suggest that the clamp has two counter-surfaces arranged to rest on the knife frame, which are arranged to form an acute angle β , the size of which is 40 - 85°, as in present claim 2. Furthermore, Carpenter does not teach or suggest that the angle between the bisectors of angles α and β is maximum 20°, as in present claim 3. Moreover, Carpenter does not teach or suggest that the counter knife and the clamp are arranged to be supported directly on the knife frame, as in present claim 5.

Carpenter does not teach or suggest acute angles α and β . Further, Carpenter does not give any teaching or suggestion, or disclose any "general conditions," that would make these angles obvious. For illustrative purposes, applicant has included a figurative side-by-side comparison of Carpenter and the present invention. The present invention is shown on the left-hand side of the diagram while Carpenter is shown on the right-hand side. Both Carpenter and the present invention include a knife frame, a counter knife, a reversible knife, a clamp, and a securing means. However, as is apparent from viewing Carpenter, the counter knife of Carpenter does not have surfaces that form an acute angle arranged to rest on the knife frame. Actually, it is impossible to make the counter knife of Carpenter

with a counter-surface forming an acute angle because the counter knife must lay against bolt (82).

Furthermore, there is no shape-locking between the counter knife and knife frame of Carpenter, in contrast to the present invention as claimed in claim 1. Instead, the counter knife of Carpenter is secured to the knife frame with two or three bolts (74, 166) (see FIGS. 3 and 5 of Carpenter). Thus, it is impossible to have any shape-locking in the assembly of Carpenter. In fact, Carpenter teaches away from the present invention by using bolts (82) for adjusting the counter knife. In contrast, in the present invention the position of the cutting bevel edge of the knife is adjusted with the counter knife (using the counter-knife series). Also, the acute angles α and β in the present invention allow for shape-locking, which is not possible in Carpenter. The counter knife of Carpenter only has one counter-surface that can rest on the knife frame, so there cannot be shape-locking in Carpenter.

Moreover, in the present invention, the clamp has an acute angle and is supported by the knife frame. Hence, both the counter knife and the clamp are directly supported by the knife frame, and the load is directly transmitted to the knife frame. In contrast, the clamp of Carpenter lays on the counter knife, not on the knife frame (see FIG. 4). Also, the counter knife is secured to the knife frame by several bolts (74) and other bolts (138) secure the counter knife via the clamp. Thus, all of the load in Carpenter will be on the bolts and the bolts will therefore have to be very massive. In the present invention, due to the acute angles α and β a majority of the load is transmitted directly to the knife frame via the counter knife and the clamp. Hence, the bolt can be small and both the reversible knife and the counter knife can be easily changed when the clamp is slightly loosened. Therefore, unlike Carpenter, in the present invention the bolts and the clamp remain in place while changing the reversible knife and the counter knife.

For all of these reasons, claims 1 – 5 are patentable over Carpenter, and therefore applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 1 – 5 over Carpenter be withdrawn.

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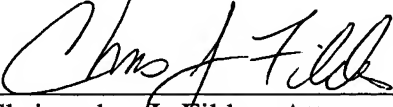
For the same reasons, applicant submits that claim 6 and its dependencies (claims 7 through 9) are patentable over Carpenter.

This amendment and request for reconsideration is felt to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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